

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANTS: Jann et al.  
SERIAL NO.: Unknown  
GROUP ART UNIT: Unknown  
FILING DATE: Filed Herewith  
EXAMINER: Unknown  
TITLE: "METHOD FOR INCREASING THE PRODUCTION OF PROPIONATE IN THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT"  
ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 112843-035

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified patent application:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 1-9 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method for selectively increasing the production of propionate in the gastro-intestinal tract of a mammal comprising the step of administering a nutritional composition comprising dextran.
2. (Once Amended) A method for decreasing blood cholesterol levels in a mammal comprising the step of administering a nutritional composition comprising dextran.
3. (Once Amended) A method for decreasing blood triglyceride levels in a mammal comprising the step of administering a nutritional composition comprising dextran.
4. (Once Amended) A method for decreasing very low density lipoprotein levels in a mammal comprising the step of administering a nutritional composition comprising dextran.